



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
United States House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Delegate Sablan:

Thank you for your recent letter in support of the addition of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the HIDTA program. I appreciate your ongoing support and interest in the HIDTA Program's efforts to combat drug abuse across the Nation. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has received a petition to add the Northern Mariana Islands as part of the HIDTA program. Your letter has been included as part of the Northern Mariana Islands submission to ONDCP.

The *Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998* (Act), as amended, provides ONDCP the statutory authority to create new HIDTAs and/or add new counties to existing HIDTAs once it has received a formal petition from a coalition of law enforcement agencies. After ONDCP receives the formal petition, the Act requires ONDCP to convene a panel of qualified independent experts to review the petition and make a recommendation. This process is further detailed in a 2007 regulation published in the Federal Register (enclosed).

I appreciate your interest and strong support of the HIDTA Program, and I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to address drug use and its consequences in the Northern Mariana Islands and across the Nation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 395-6700, or have your staff contact Kayla Tonnessen, ONDCP's Associate Director of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 395-6602.

Respectfully,

James W. Carroll
Deputy Director

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